

PRE

The PRESENT. An elliptical expression for the *present time*; the time now existing.

When he saw descend
The son of God to judge them, terrify'd
He fled; not hoping to escape, but shun
The *present*; fearing guilty, what his wrath
Might suddenly inflict. *Milton.*

Men that set their hearts only upon the *present*, without
looking forward into the end of things are struck at. *L'Estr.*

Who, since their own short understandings reach
No further than the *present*, think ev'n the wife,
Speak what they think, and tell tales of themselves. *Rosve.*

At *PRESENT.* [*à present*, Fr.] At the present time; now;
elliptically, for the *present time*.

The state is at *present* very sensible of the decay in their
trade. *Addison.*

PRESENT. *n. f.* [*present*, Fr. from the verb.]
1. A gift; a donative; something ceremoniously given.

Plain Clarence!
I will send thy soul to heav'n,
If heav'n will take the *present* at our hands. *Shaksp.*

His dog to-morrow, by his master's command, he must
carry for a *present* to his lady. *Shaksp.*

He sent part of the rich spoil, with the admiral's ensign, as
a *present* unto Solymán. *Knolly's Hist. of the Turks.*

Say heav'nly muse, shall not thy sacred vein
Afford a *present* to the infant God?
Hast thou no verse, no hymn, no solemn strain,
To welcome him to this his new abode?
They that are to love inclin'd,
Sway'd by chance, not choice or art
To the first that's fair or kind,
Make a *present* of their heart. *Waller.*

Somewhat is sure design'd by fraud or force;
Trust not their *present*, nor admit the horse. *Dryden.*

2. A letter or mandate exhibited.
Be it known to all men by these *present*s. *Shaksp.*

To *PRESENT.* *v. a.* [*présento*, low Lat. *presenter*, Fr. in all
the senses.]

1. To place in the presence of a superior.
On to the sacred hill
They led him high applauded, and *present*
Before the seat supreme. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. vi.*

2. To exhibit to view or notice.
He knows not what he says; and vain is it,
That we *present* us to him. *Shaksp. King Lear.*

3. To offer; to exhibit.
Thou therefore now advise,
Or hear what to my mind first thoughts *present*. *Milton.*

Now ev'ry leaf, and ev'ry moving breath
Presents a foe, and ev'ry foe a death. *Denham.*

Lecturides's memory is ever ready to offer to his mind
something out of other men's writings or conversations, and
is *presenting* him with the thoughts of other persons perpetually.
Watts's Improvement of the Mind.

4. To give formally and ceremoniously.
Folks in mudwall tenement,
Affording pepper-corn for rent,
Present a turkey or a hen
To those might better spare them. *Prior.*

5. To put into the hands of another.
So ladies in romance assist their knight,
Present the spear, and arm him for the fight. *Dryden.*

6. To favour with gifts. To *present*, in the sense of to give,
has several structures: we say absolutely, to *present* a man, to
give something to him. This is less in use. The common
phrases are to *present* a gift to a man; or, to *present* the man
with a gift.

Thou spendest thy time in waiting upon such a great one,
and thy estate in *presenting* him; and, after all, half no other
reward, but sometimes to be smiled upon, and always to be
smiled at. *South's Sermons.*

He now *presents*, as ancient ladies do,
That courted long, at length are forc'd to woo. *Dryden.*

Oétavia *presented* the poet, for his admirable elegy on her
son Marcellus. *Dryden.*

Should I *present* thee with rare figur'd plate,
O how thy rising heart would throb and beat. *Dryden.*

7. To prefer to ecclesiastical benefices.
That he put these bishops in the places of the deceased by
his own authority, is notoriously false; for the duke of Saxony
always *presented*. *Atterbury.*

8. To offer openly.
He was appointed admiral, and *presented* battle to the
French navy, which they refused. *Hayward.*

9. To introduce by something exhibited to the view or notice.
Not in use.
Tell on, quoth she, the woful tragedy,
The which these reliques had *present* unto. *Spenser.*

10. To lay before a court of judicature, as an object of en-
quiry.
The grand juries were practised effectually with to *present*
the said pamphlet, with all aggravating epithets. *Swift.*

PRESENTATION. *n. f.* [*présentation*, Fr. from *present*.]
1. The act of presenting.
Prayers are sometimes a *presentation* of mere desires, as a
mean of procuring desired effects at the hand of God. *Heske.*

2. The act of offering any one to an ecclesiastical benefice.
He made effectual provision for recovery of advowsons and
presentations to churches. *Waller.*

3. Exhibition.
These *presentations* of fighting on the stage, are necessary
to produce the effects of an heroic play. *Dryden.*

4. This word is misprinted for *presentation*.
Although in sundry animals, we deny not a kind of natural
meteorology, or innate *presentation* both of wind and weather,
yet that proceeding from sense, they cannot retain that ap-
prehension after death. *Brown's Vaguer Errors.*

PRESENTATIVE. *adj.* [*from present*.] Such as that presenta-
tions may be made of it.
Mrs. Gullion poss. of the improper parsonage of Bar-
well, did procure from the king leave to annex the same to
the vicarage, and to waive it *presentative*, and gave them both
to St. John's College in Oxen. *Spelman.*

PRESENTED. *n. f.* [*from present*, Fr.] One presented to a
benefice.
Our laws make the ordinary a disturber, if he does not
give institution upon the fitness of a person presented to him,
or at least give notice to the patron of the disability of his
presentee. *Ascham's Paragon.*

PRESENTING. *n. f.* [*from present*.] One that presents.
The thing was acceptable, but not the *presenting*. *L'Estr.*

PRESENTIAL. *adj.* [*from present*] Supposing actual presence.
By union, I do not understand that which is local or *pre-*
sential, because I consider God as omnipresent. *Norris.*

PRESENTIALITY. *n. f.* [*from presential*.] State of being
present.
This eternal, indivisible act of his existence makes all
futures actually present to him; and it is the *presentiality* of the
object, which founds the unerring certainty of his know-
ledge. *South's Sermons.*

To *PRESENTIATE.* *v. a.* [*from present*.] To make present.
The fancy may be so strong, as to *presentiate* upon me
theatre, all that ever it took notice of in times past: the
power of fancy, in *presentiating* any one thing that is past,
being no less wonderful, than having that power, it should
also acquire the perfection to *presentiate* them all. *Gray.*

PRESENTIFICK. *adj.* [*from present* and *ficus*, Latin.] Making
present. Not in use.

PRESENTIFICKLY. *adv.* [*from presentifick*.] In such a manner
as to make *present*.
The whole evolution of times and ages, from everlasting to
everlasting, is collectively and *presentifickly* represented to God
at once, as if all things and actions were, at this very instant,
really present and existent before him. *Macle.*

PRESENTLY. *adv.* [*from present*.]
1. At present; at this time; now.
The towns and forts you *presently* have, are still left unto
you to be kept either with or without garrisons, so as you
alter not the laws of the country. *Shaksp.*

I hope we may presume, that a rare thing it is not in the
church of God, even for that very word which is read to be
presently their joys, and afterwards their study that hear it. *Hooker, b. v. j. 2.*

To speak of it as requireth, would require very long dis-
course; all I will *presently* say is this. *Hooker, b. i. j. 10.*

Covetous ambition, thinking all too little which *presently*
it hath, supposeth itself to stand in need of all which it hath
not. *Raleigh's Epistle.*

2. Immediately; soon after.
Tell him, that no history can match his policies, and *pre-*
sently the foe shall measure himself by himself. *South.*

PRESENTMENT. *n. f.* [*from present*.]
1. The act of presenting.
When comes your book forth?
Upon the heels of my *presentment*. *Shaksp.*

2. Any thing presented or exhibited; representation.
Thus I hurt
My dazzling spells into the spongy air,
Of power to cheat the eye with bleat illusion,
And give it false *presentments*, left the place
And my quaint habits breed astonishment. *Milton.*

3. In law, *presentment* is a mere denunciation of the jurors them-
selves or some other officer, as justice, constable, teachers, in-
veyors, and, without any information, of an offence in-
quireable in the court to which it is presented. *Cowd.*

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PRESENTANEUS. *adj.* [*from presentaneus*, Lat.] Ready;
quick; immediate.
Some plagues putake of such malignity, that, like a *pre-*
sentaneus poison, they enecate in two hours. *Harvey.*

PRESENTABLE. *adj.* [*from present*.] What may be presented.
Incumbents of churches *presentable* cannot, by their sole
act, grant their incumbencies to others; but may make
leaves of the profits thereof. *Ascham's Paragon.*

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The grand juries were practised effectually with, to present
the said pamphlet with all aggravating epithets, and their *pre-*
sentments published for several weeks in all the news-papers. *Swift to Pope.*

PRESENTNESS. *n. f.* [*from present*.] Presence of mind; quick-
ness at emergencies.
Goring had a much better understanding, a much keener
courage, and *presentness* of mind in danger. *Clarendon.*

PRESERVATION. *n. f.* [*from preserve*.] The act of preserv-
ing; care to preserve; act of keeping from destruction, de-
cay, or any ill.

Nature does require
Her times of *preservation*, which, perforce,
I give my tendance to. *Shaksp. Henry VIII.*

The eyes of the Lord are upon them that love him, he is
their mighty protection, a *preservation* from stumbling, and
a help from falling. *Ecclesi. xxxiv. 16.*

Ev'ry senseless thing, by nature's light,
Doth *preservation* seek, destruction shun.
Our allwise maker has put into man the uneasiness of hun-
ger, thirst, and other natural desires, to determine their wills
for the *preservation* of themselves, and the continuation of
their species. *Lacke.*

PRESERVATIVE. *n. f.* [*from preservatif*, Fr. from *preserve*.] That
which has the power of preserving; something preventive;
something that confers security.
If we think that the church needeth not those ancient *pre-*
servatives, which ages before us were glad to use, we de-
ceive ourselves. *Hooker.*

It hath been anciently in use to wear tablets of arsenick,
as *preservatives* against the plague; for that being poisons
themselves, they draw the venom to them from the spirits. *Bacon's Nat. Hist.*

Were there truth herein, it were the best *preservative* for
princes, and persons exalted unto such fears. *Brown.*

Bodies kept clean, which use *preservatives*, are likely to
escape infection. *Harvey.*

The most effectual *preservative* of our virtue, is to avoid
the conversation of wicked men.
Molly is an Egyptian plant, and was really made use of
as a *preservative* against enchantment. *Bacon's Notes on Ody.*

To *PRESERVE.* *v. a.* [*preservo*, low Latin; *preserve*, Fr.]
1. To save; to defend from destruction or any evil; to keep.
The Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and *pre-*
serve me unto his heavenly kingdom. *2 Tim. iv. 18.*

God sent me to *preserve* you a posterity, and save your
lives. *Gen. xlv. 7.*

She shall lead me soberly in my doings, and *preserve* me in
her power. *Wisdom ix. 11.*

He did too frequently gratify their unjustifiable designs, a
guilt all men, who are obnoxious, are liable to, and can
hardly *preserve* themselves from. *Clarendon.*

We can *preserve* unhurt our minds.
To be indifferent, which of two opinions is true, is the
right temper of the mind, that *preserves* it from being im-
pelled on, till it has done its best to find the truth. *Lacke.*

Every petty prince in Germany must be intreated to *pre-*
serve the queen of Great Britain upon her throne. *Swift.*

2. To season fruits and other vegetables with sugar and in other
proper pickles: as, to *preserve* plums, walnuts, and cucumbers.

PRESERVE. *n. f.* [*from the verb*.] Fruit preserved whole in
sugar.
All this is easily discerned in those fruits, which are
brought in *preserved* unto us. *Brown.*

The fruit with the hulk, when tender and young, makes
a good *preserve*. *Mortimer.*